

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 and 17-27 were previously pending in the present application. The present Amendment cancels claims 3-5, and adds new claims 28-30. Thus, upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 1-15 and 17-30 will be pending. Claims 18 and 20-24 were previously withdrawn from consideration, pending the allowance of the remaining claims.

Claims 1-15, 17, 19, and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,421,879 to Gratz et al. (“Gratz”) Applicant respectfully traverses.

Gratz is directed to a clamping grip with a sleeve, particularly for use on bicycle handlebars. (Abstract) In one embodiment, clamping grip 8 has a curved section 25 having a projection 26, which is “aligned essentially parallel to the road and forwards in its intended mounting on a bicycle.” (col. 9, l. 46-51) In another embodiment, Gratz shows a handlebar horn 31 with a fastening area 32 (col. 9, l. 60-67, Figs. 10-17).

Claim 1 is directed to a bicycle bar grip. The grip comprises, *inter alia*, a handlebar sleeve comprising a clamping area arranged at an edge of the sleeve, a clamp connected to the sleeve in the clamping area, and a grip element connected with the sleeve. The grip element comprises a holding portion, wherein the holding portion projects into the clamping area at a distance from the sleeve so that there is a gap between the holding portion and the sleeve in the clamping area. A portion of the clamp is in the gap between the holding portion and the sleeve. When the bicycle bar grip is placed on a handlebar, the holding portion and the supporting portion project in a rearward direction toward a user and the clamp projects in a forward direction away from the user.

Gratz fails to disclose or suggest claim 1. The Office Action has identified

gripping device 7 of Gratz as the grip element of claim 1, and curved section 25 as the claimed holding portion. However, no embodiment shown in Gratz discloses gripping device 7 or curved section 25 projecting into a clamping area at a distance from sleeve 1, as required by the holding portion of claim 1. The Office Action failed to identify where such a feature is found in Gratz. In addition, since Gratz fails to disclose or suggest the holding portion of claim 1 that projects into a clamping area at a distance from a sleeve, Gratz clearly fails to disclose a gap between the holding portion and the sleeve, wherein a portion of a clamp is in the gap, as required by claim 1. Support for these amendments to claim 1 can be found at least in Fig. 1.

In all of the embodiments of Gratz that have a handlebar horn 31, gripping device 7 does not project into a clamping area, and instead stops short of the clamping area at the end of sleeve 1 (See, for example, Fig. 10, where gripping device 7 does not extend all the way to the end of handlebar 6.). The only exception is in Fig. 14, where handlebar horn 31 is integrally formed with sleeve 1 (col. 11, l. 22-24). However, in Fig. 14, there is clearly no gap between a holding portion of a grip element and a sleeve in a clamping area, as required by claim 1.

Furthermore, there is no embodiment of Gratz that shows curved section 25 and handlebar horn 31 together in the same embodiment. Even if they were used together, however, neither feature is a holding portion that points in a rearward direction toward a user, as required by claim 1. Gratz states that curved section 25 is meant to face "forwards in its intended mounting on a bicycle" (col. 9, l. 49-51). Extension 37 of horn 31 points "essentially upwards," (col. 10, l. 57). Figs. 10-17 appear to show that horn 31 also points in a forward direction. Under any interpretation, however, there is no feature of Gratz that points in a rearward direction toward a user, as required by the holding portion of claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Gratz, as are claims 2 -15, 17, 19, and 25-27, which depend therefrom. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-15, 17, 19, and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gratz be

reconsidered and withdrawn.

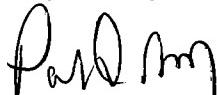
New claim 29 recites a bicycle bar grip. The grip comprises, *inter alia*, a sleeve for being placed onto a bike handlebar, the sleeve comprising a clamping area at an end of the sleeve. A holding portion of a grip element connected to the sleeve projects into the clamping area at a distance from the sleeve so that there is a gap between the holding portion and the sleeve in the clamping area. The grip also comprises a clamp, and a portion of the clamp is in the gap between the grip element and the sleeve.

As previously discussed with respect to claim 1, Gratz fails to disclose or suggest a holding portion that projects into a clamping area of a sleeve at a distance from the sleeve, so that there is a gap between the holding portion and the sleeve in the clamping area. For at least this reason, claim 29 is patentable over Gratz, as is claim 30, which depends therefrom.

New claim 30 depends from claim 29, and recites that the clamp comprises a holding bar, the holding bar extending in a first direction away from the sleeve, and wherein the grip element extends in a second direction away from the sleeve. The first direction is opposite to the second direction. Gratz fails to disclose or suggest a holding bar that extends in a direction away from a sleeve that is opposite to a direction in which a grip element extends. This is further support of the patentability of claim 31.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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